

# *HENTON'S LODGE RUSSIAN RIVER, ALASKA*

by  
Lee E. Poleske



Henton's Lodge circa 1950 (photos courtesy of the Seward Museum)



This token is listed on page 218 of Ronald J. Benice's *Alaska Tokens*, second edition, 1994. The token is made of aluminum, round, 36mm. On the front of the token: GOOD FOR ONE DRINK / AT / HENTONS' / LODGE / RUSSIAN RIVER / ALASKA. The back has a horse shoe with GOOD LUCK above, and a four leaf clover colored green. Note that the token says HENTONS' instead of HENTON'S.

Fred A. Henton came to Alaska in 1905, where he prospected and operated mines in Nome, Teller and Shushana. He was in charge of the dogs for the Vilhjalmur Stefansson Canadian Arctic Expedition in 1913-18.

Henton moved to Kodiak Island in the 1930s, where he prospected and guided. In 1936 he shot a record Alaska brown bear on Kodiak Island for the Los Angeles Museum. The bear was number one in the Boone and Crockett record book until 1952 and is currently third. It is still on display at the Los Angeles Museum.

He built Henton's Kenai Lodge at the confluence of the Russian and Kenai Rivers in 1945. He also built a ferry, suspended from a cable stretching across the Kenai River and propelled by the river current. He sold the lodge in 1959. It was operated as Sportsmans Lodge until 1993, when it was purchased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The buildings were dismantled and a 180 vehicle parking lot was constructed for the convenience of fishermen at one of the most popular fishing areas in the state. The ferry is



Fred A. Henton with record brown bear

(continued on page 25)

# EDITORIAL

To mail early, or not mail early. That is the question. Whether it is better to get this to subscribers as soon as possible, or to take the time and get the newsletter back on schedule. Ah, the heck with it. This is going in the mail.

Our thanks to Lee Poleske for his article on Henton's Lodge. Mr. Poleske is a long time supporter of this newsletter, and it is always a pleasure to receive an article from him. This is his second "feature" article in ATC&PN. He has written articles for other publications (we are jealous!), primarily about Alaska banks and checks.

Little capsules of Alaska history such as Mr. Poleske's article are the meat and potatoes for token collectors. The articles do not have to be lengthy. Frankly, a simple treatment of the known facts provide easy reading, and compliment the tokens that one is collecting. If you have knowledge about a token issuer, we would very much enjoy presenting it to our readers. Don't procrastinate. Do it today.

As noted in the last issue, we are in need of spacefillers. Anything from an inch to a half page. I would bet that every person on the mailing list has some information that would be of interest to others that could fit into this niche.

Scans vs. photocopies: We would prefer quality scans (600dpi jpegs), but please, if you cannot do this, send us photocopies of items that we can include in "For the Record," and we will scan them into the newsletter.

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# AUCTION PRICES REALIZED

Prices realized from our auction of April 6th:

Lot	Price Realized
232 Anchorage B-7a	50
233 Chatanika B-1, a-c	300
234 Cordova, B-36a	30
235 Cordova, B-41a	140
236 Fort Yukon, B-4a	30
237 Ketchikan, B-48a	20
238 Ketchikan, B-60a, i and ii	55
239 Ketchikan, B-60c, i to iii	33
240 Koyukuk, B-1f	270
241 McCarthy, B-4a	15
242 Nenana, B-5a	375
243 Nome, B-41, b,d,f,i	40
244 Noorvik, B-1d variety	150
245 Valdez, B-9a	70
246 Alaska chit	45
247 Alaska Coastal Airways	55
248 Fairbanks Daily News Miner	55
249 Sitka Russian Orthodox Church	20
250 Univ. of Alaska	200
251 Fairbanks Cheechako Grubstake	55
252 Fairbanks 2 Pinch token	25
253 Juneau Centennial Set	10
254 Ten different Alaska medals	80
255 1990 1/10 oz. gold medal	75
256 Alaska State Medals	240
257 Alaska Mint Gold Panner Medals	25
258 Gold/Silver Mule medal	55
259 Golden Days Buttons	25
260 Alaska S.S. Co. Spoon	20
261 Juneau Spoon	20
262 Billiken Spoon	10
263 St. Michael Spoon	20
264 Polar Bibliography	10

**Bowers & Merena 11/29 to 12/1/01**  
 5434 Mishler Alaska/Hawaii 10kt gold 805  
 5435 Mishler Alaska/Hawaii silver 368  
 Reported by Kurtis Hawk

**Stack's January 2002**  
 358 Kane/Polar Masonic Medal 115  
 359 Greeley Gold Medal 15525  
 665 Anchorage, Canteen Bar dies 345  
 Reported by Ron Benice

**From eBay:**  
 Spitzbergen World Trade Center 76, 50  
 Spitzbergen Kursk recovery 31, 25  
 Dawson, B&M 12½¢ in trade 62

# HENTON'S LODGE, Cont.

still in operation and is said to be the only one of its kind still operating in this country.



After he sold the lodge in 1959, Henton went back to mining. He had placer claims on Six Mile Creek in the Sunrise area and a mine on Gilpatrick Mountain, about 42 miles from Seward. Fred Henton died in 1965.

Editor's note: See the August, 1983 issue of ATC&PN, page 35 for information on the ferry tokens.

An interesting item of questionable legal status is the advertising note shown right and below. When folded and dropped on the ground, it would resemble a \$20 bill. If memory serves me, this is from the late 1980s.

## SPORTSMANS LODGE

MILE 55  
STERLING HIGHWAY  
COOPER LANDING  
ALASKA 99572  
Phone 907-595-1294

\*RESTAURANT  
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\*BOAT LAUNCH  
\*WALK-IN QUICK FREEZE  
\*FERRY BOAT  
\*HOME-MADE ICE CREAM,  
BIG THICK SHAKES, HOME  
BAKED BREAD, ROLL &  
PASTRIES, SOURDOUGH  
HOT CAKES

Owners:

The Carleton Towne Clan,  
Slim, Shirley, Mike, and  
Sandi.

*Sportsmans  
Lodge*

MILE 55, STERLING HIGHWAY,  
COOPER LANDING, ALASKA 99672

Phone 907-595-1294

On the bank of the Russian River where  
the Russian River and Kenai Rivers  
merge.





## LAVADEROS DE ORO

The set of tokens to the right is interesting in that the issuers were “Lavaderos de Oro” or gold placer miners. It must have been a large company to require tokens.

No record can be found of Chaparro & Garcia in Chile, where it is believed these tokens are from. “Pulperia” is company store, a term found on many Nitrate mine tokens from Chile.



## ALASKA MINT ISSUES A TRADE TOKEN!

Mike Robuck, owner of the Alaska Mint is pictured in front of the mint in the center of the picture. He purchased the old downtown Anchorage McDonald's building a couple years ago and greatly expanded the Alaska Mint with the move. The building contains the minting room and a large selection of Alaskan gifts and jewelry. Hundreds of Alaska Mint medals designed and struck at the Alaska Mint are on display and for sale. The Mint is located about one-half block from the Ceremonial starting spot of the Iditarod Race on Fourth Avenue. The pictures were taken on the starting day of the Iditarod Race and that is the reason for the large crowd and balloons in front of the Alaska Mint.

The 38 mm token pictured was struck by the Alaska Mint in Aluminum and is Good for \$1 off Fur Rondy Coins. The small print under the \$1.00 reads “Redeem at Alaska Mint” and the small print under the logo is the web address [www.alaskamint.com](http://www.alaskamint.com). One thousand of the tokens were struck and they were given away during the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous parade on February 9, 2002. Fur Rondy features the World Championship Sled Dog Race and other events over the ten day winter celebration. The parade is typically larger than Anchorage's 4th of July parade and contains floats, old cars, and typical parade entries. Of special interest to Alaska token and medal collectors were the entries for the Anchorage

Trolley Tours which has issued a number of transportation tokens and the Alaska Mint which was a Hummer with a coin replica on top. Mike Robuck walked the parade route beside the Alaska Mint's parade entry and gave out candy and the Alaska Mint tokens. Mike says that the token is noteworthy as being only the second time the Mint has produced an item with a dollar value on it.



---J. Douglas Williams

# FOR THE RECORD



**ANCHORAGE:** Midnight Express, Beer. Black on white plastic, 38mm (eBay).



**SALCHAKET:** Salchaket Homestead, "Home of ????" Sourdough??, Rain Check. Black on wood.



**ANCHORAGE:** Moose Lodge No. 1534, Drink Tuit. Black on red plastic, 42mm (Kaye Dethridge).



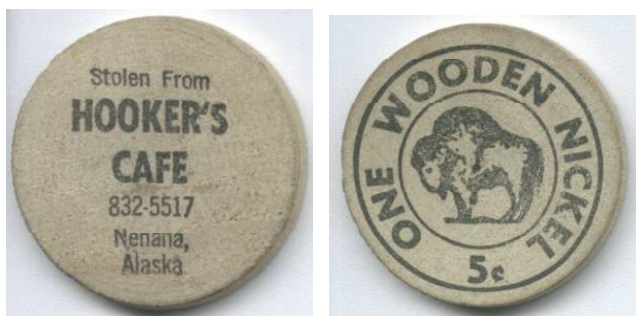
**THANE:** Alaska Gastineau Mining Company Chits, circa 1915 from a \$2 scrip book. Listed but not illustrated (Kaye Dethridge).



**SITKA/JUNEAU:** Ernie's Cocktail Bar, Sitka; Arctic Bar, Juneau. Both sides state Rain Check for a Drink. White on Red plastic, 39mm (Kaye Dethridge).



**(SEWARD):** Harbor Dinner Club, Rain Check. White on blue plastic, 43mm (Lee Poleske).



**NENENA:** Hooker's Cafe, Wooden Nickel 5¢. Black on wood.



**ALASKA:** Alaska AIDS Vaccine Ride. ID or equipment tag. Black on white plastic, about 27mm (eBay).